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NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

Letter dated 24 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 24 February 1998 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union regarding the release of prisoners in Cuba.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the release of prisoners in Cuba

The European Union appreciates the welcome extended by Cuba to Pope John Paul II and views this as a positive step in the development of religious freedom there. The Union also welcomes the Cuban Government's decision to release immediately a certain number of prisoners in response to the Pope's appeal, and urges the authorities to liberate and fully reintegrate into society all who have been imprisoned because of peaceful expression of their political views, including the four leading members of the Internal Dissidence Working Group. The Union considers both the visit and the release of prisoners as positive steps towards greater religious and civic freedom in Cuba, and looks for this process to continue.